

These are hard-working young men and women who help us each day with a broad range of tasks. They do really pretty much everything from preparing these desks today—as you look around here and see what is on these desks, you can see that that can be a huge task—to running errands for Members, errands that we greatly depend upon as we try to juggle our various responsibilities of the day, to making copies of amendments literally just one after another. In fact, you see the copies of the Medicare legislation on the desks today. When you look at them, you know that somebody has generated each and every one of those copies. The duties really go on and on.

In the middle of my talk last night, I was speaking from this desk. And I thought, I have to get rid of this. How will I do it? I was thinking, and all of a sudden the page came and slipped it away so I could continue my discussion at the time.

I thank them and praise the tremendous work they do each and every day. This past week we have had very busy days. It has been unusual working through last week, through Saturday, through Sunday, through Monday, today. Very late seems to be the norm these last few days, as we have really worked to complete our work before the holidays. It is the pages who have been with us in the past few days where we had not anticipated being here this late.

We have had very special pages with us. I will slip out in a few minutes as we close down, and they will still be here as they tidy up for early tomorrow morning. They will soon be out for their Thanksgiving holiday as well. I really do I want to thank them, several of whom are sitting right here looking at me on the floor tonight. I thank them for their hard work these last several days: Yael Bortnick, Emily Holmgren, Ferrell Oxley, Sarah Smith, Melissa Meyer—and it is her birthday today—Margaret Leddy, and Krista Warner. In particular, I want to thank Melissa Meyer. But I thank them again for their tremendous work.

AUTHORIZING PRODUCTION OF RECORDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 274 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 274) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

There being no objection, Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs has received requests from various law enforcement and regulatory officials and agencies for assistance in connection with pending investigations for copies of records that the subcommittee obtained during its recent investigation into the role of accountants, lawyers, and financial professionals in the tax shelter industry.

This resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide investigative records, obtained by the subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to these requests.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 274) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 274

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs has been conducting an investigation into the role of accountants, lawyers, and financial professionals in the tax shelter industry;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received requests from law enforcement and regulatory officials and agencies for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement and regulatory entities and officials, court-appointed officials, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by Federal, State, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into the role of accountants, lawyers, and financial professionals in the tax shelter industry.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 8:15 a.m., Tuesday, November 25. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug Modernization Act, as provided under the previous order. I further ask unanimous consent that the final 10 minutes prior to the 9:15 a.m. vote be equally divided between the two leaders, with the majority leader in control of the final 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow morning there will be 1 hour of debate prior to the vote adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug Modernization Act. We have had 3 days of vigorous debate on this monumental legislation. Tomorrow it will culminate in a historic vote. I do thank all Senators who have participated in the discussion, and I particularly congratulate the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee who have worked to bring this legislation to completion.

I also announce that we are continuing our efforts to finish action on the remaining appropriations bills. It is my hope that we will be able to move forward with the appropriations process tomorrow. I will have more to say about this tomorrow, but Senators should expect the possibility of additional votes tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:15 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:12 p.m., adjourned until 8:15 a.m., Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate November 24, 2003:

THE JUDICIARY

JANE J. BOYLE, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE JERRY L. BUCHMEYER, RETIRED.